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AUTHOR Scholl, Jan
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ABSTRACT

This packet contains two advanced-level 4-H sewing projects for students in the textile sciences area. The projects cover the advanced sewing techniques of tailoring and making formalwear. Each project provides an overview of what the student will learn, what materials are needed, and suggested projects for the area. A step-by-step plan for doing the project, with instruction sheets and line drawings is included. Also included are a project record, ideas for sharing the project with others, and suggestions for additional projects. (KC)

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4-H Textile Science Advanced Projects

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Tailoring

4-H Textile Science

Advanced Project

Want to challenge your skills and make a beautifully fitted coat, suit, or jacket? Try tailoring! A tailored garment includes many of these details:

- rolled collar and lapel
- tape to stabilize the front edge and roll line
- bound or worked buttonholes
- welt pockets
- areas of the garment shaped by steam
- set-in sleeves with a shaped cap, shoulder pads, and sleeve heads
- interfaced hem
- vents at hem of sleeve and/or in the back or sides at the lower edge of the garment
- variety of interfacing applications
- lining

If this is your first tailoring project, you'll want to start with only a few details. Then when you take the project again, choose a more challenging fabric or a pattern with many pieces.

For this project, you'll need:

- Fabric, pattern, and notions
- Underlining, lining, and interfacings
- Fabric and thread for a test garment
- Tissue, tape, ruler and/or T-square, and pencil to mark fit and adjustments on pattern
- Dressmaker's chalk, basting thread, or floss for tailor's tacks
- Pressing aids
- Books on tailoring
- Leader or other adult to help you

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Tailoring Methods

In tailoring you use hand and machine stitching to define a garment's design and to give the garment a shape of its own. In traditional tailoring, much more attention is paid to inner construction and shaping using hand stitches, underlining, interfacing, stays (tape), and pressing. Contemporary tailoring may use fusibles and other techniques to save time yet produce similar results.

You may choose any tailoring method suited to the garment's style and design, and to the fabric selected. Use the evaluation form in the project record to help you make decisions about techniques and materials. Keep in mind your personal skills and experience, and the time you have to put into your project, before you start.

You're working with bulky and layered fabrics, so trimming and grading seams, pressing and steaming, and pounding seams and edges become more important. These skills are not difficult to learn, but they take time and patience.

Making a Test Garment

Fit is also an important part of a tailored garment, and it is helpful to make a test garment from muslin or gingham fabric. Using gingham makes it easier to see the grain lines and to spot any fitting problems. A test garment can also help you visualize the overall effect.

Remember that your test garment is not the same as the garment you'll be making—it's not constructed out of fashion fabric! For this reason, you'll need to check the fit of any garment and make adjustments as you sew.

Don't be discouraged if your test garment doesn't fit you exactly—even if your pattern is the right size! Most people have to make some adjustments. Work with your leader. Study a book on fitting or alterations and make the needed changes on both your test garment and the pattern. Also make a list of any changes that can help you with fitting problems in future projects!

Skills You'll Learn

While making your tailored garment, you'll want to learn new skills and try new sewing and pressing tools. Practice making details, not only on your test garment, but also on scraps of the fabric you'll be using. Keep your test scraps and practice pressing them. You may want to keep a scrapbook of these samples so that you can check back on a skill later.

You'll learn to:

- Select and apply underlinings and linings
- Preshrink nonwashable fabrics
- Mark details with chalk and tailors' tacks
- Practice padding and other hand stitches
- Lay out one-way designs or plaids
- Grade seams and reduce bulk
- Use pressing equipment, such as a steamer, sleeve roll, pressing mitt, pressing ham, ham holder, point presser, clapper, and sleeve board

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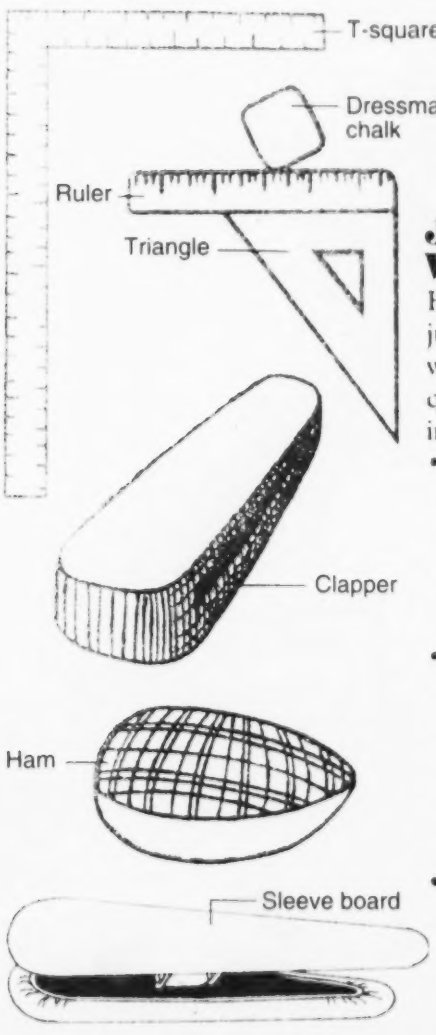
Pressing Is Important

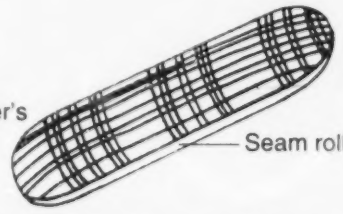
Pressing smooths or flattens fabrics using an "up and down" rather than a "side by side" motion (as in ironing). Press a seam or detail before crossing it with another line of stitching or before it gets covered up by another layer of fabric, such as a lining.

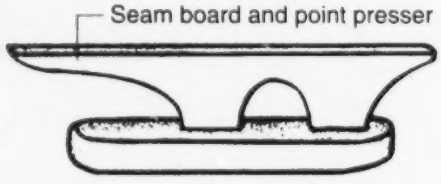
Take your time when pressing. Make sure you have the right temperature setting and adequate steam and pressure. Also allow the garment to remain in its pressed position until dry.

Check care instructions and practice on a sample. A see-through press cloth allows you to see what you're doing and prevents shine and marks on the outside of the garment.

Pressing tools need not be expensive. You can make an adequate press cloth from a white handkerchief or a piece of self-fabric. You can also make your own pressing aids in the "Sewing for Other Projects and People" project.







Judging Your Own Work

Here are some general criteria for judging a tailored garment. These will also help you compare the quality of tailored garments sold in your area.

- Collar and lapels are firm and roll smoothly. They have sharp edges without the seam around the outer edge being obvious. They are the same on both sides.
- The lapel roll line is firm and stable, and does not gape or stand away from the body. The roll line is softer in women's than in men's garments. The front edge is firm, straight, and perpendicular to the floor.
- Buttonholes are identical, firm, and flat. They have straight edges and square corners (excluding keyhole buttonholes) and do not ravel.
- Pockets are firm and have crisp edges, straight lines, or smooth and even curved areas.
- Shoulders are firm enough to be smooth and to allow ease of movement without stress on the fabric. The sleeve hangs straight and the sleeve cap is smoothly rounded without wrinkles. Shoulder pads fit smoothly.
- The sleeve and bottom hems are invisible from the right side and are smooth, firm, and flat.
- The vents are straight, smooth, and firm and have no obvious seam ridges.
- The lining fits smoothly, conceals inner construction, slides on in dressing, and gives an attractive appearance to the inside of the garment.
- The garment fits well and is well pressed.

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What I shared with others (presentations, helping other members, community service)

TOPIC OR SKILL	DATE	NO. OF PEOPLE WHO WATCHED

Did I participate in Fashion Revue? _____

Where? _____ When? _____

Project story

Use this space to write about your project. What did you do? What did you enjoy doing most? Least?

Tell about the type of pattern and the fabrics you selected. Tell about the fiber content of your fabric(s) and attach sample swatches. What did you have the most difficult time making? How did you solve any problems? Include a photograph or sketch of your final outfit, complete with accessories.

Also talk about the sewing resources you used, the resource people who helped you, and group meeting activities.

Tailoring Project Record

4-H Textile Science

Advanced Project

Name _____

Address _____

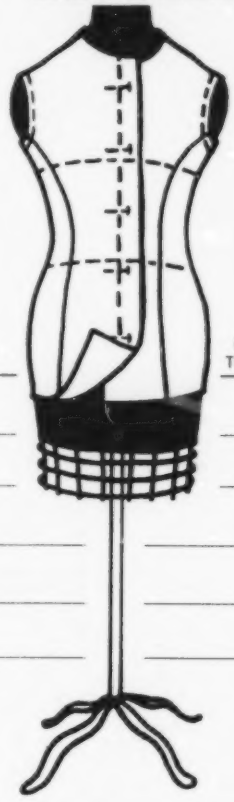
Age as of January 1 _____

Club _____

Number of years in Textile Science projects _____

Number of years in this project _____

Leader's signature _____



What I made for my project

ITEM	FIBER CONTENT	COST	HOURS TO MAKE

Total number of garments made this year _____.

People who helped me and resources I used for this project

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

What I learned in this project (new skills, new words)

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

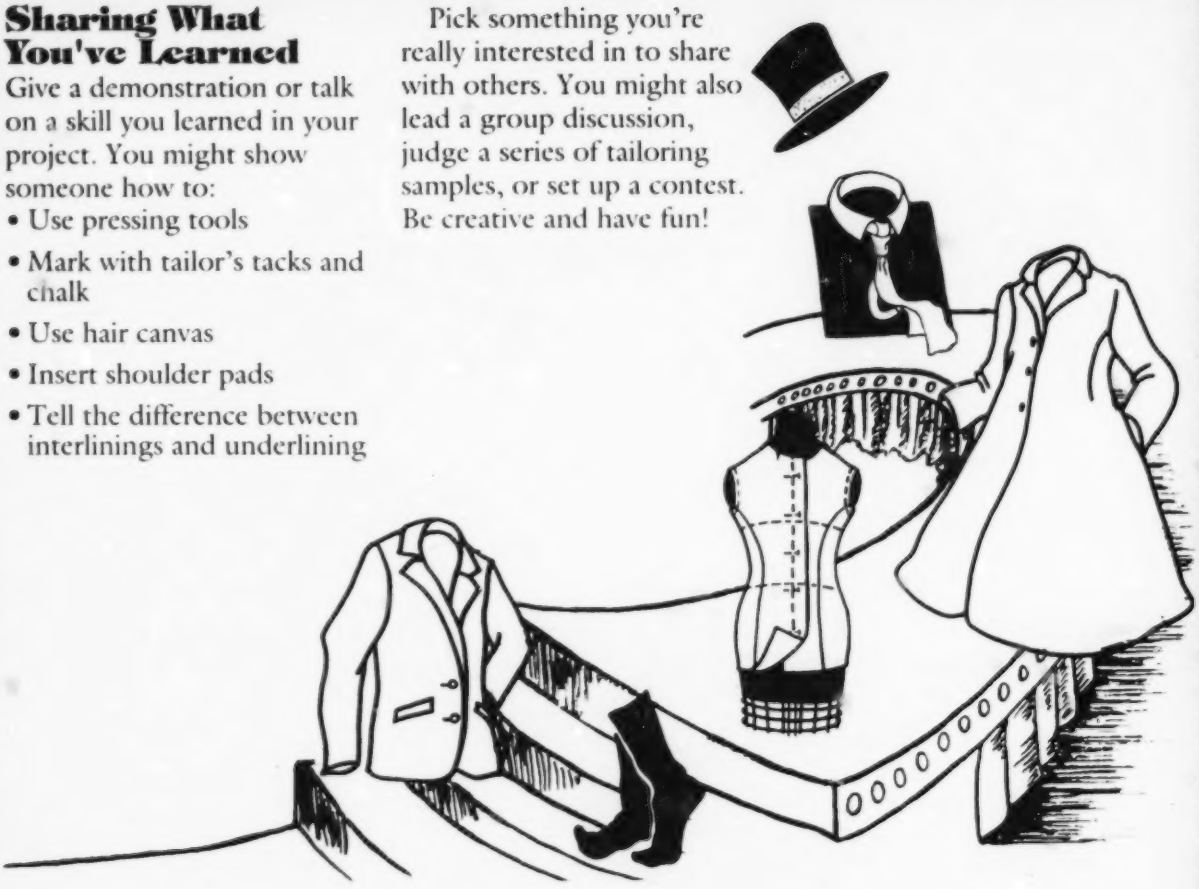
4-H Textile Science Tailoring Advanced Project

Sharing What You've Learned

Give a demonstration or talk on a skill you learned in your project. You might show someone how to:

- Use pressing tools
- Mark with tailor's tacks and chalk
- Use hair canvas
- Insert shoulder pads
- Tell the difference between interlinings and underlining

Pick something you're really interested in to share with others. You might also lead a group discussion, judge a series of tailoring samples, or set up a contest. Be creative and have fun!



Want to Know More?

Many books have been written on tailoring and fit. Check fabric stores, book stores, and the library for more information. You'll also find a list of tailoring resources on PENpages at your county extension office.

Exhibits and Fashion Revue

Check current fashion revue and fair or round-up premium listings for entry ideas. Every garment should have a hand-stitched label printed with your name, age, 4-H club, and county. Attach the label to the inside of the garment, close to the hem.

Taking the Project Again

Tailoring skills take practice. Think about taking this project again to master your abilities. Tackle another garment that will challenge your skills!

Prepared by Jan Scholl, associate professor of agricultural and extension education.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension Work, Acts of Congress May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Pennsylvania Legislature. L.F. Hood, Director of Cooperative Extension, The Pennsylvania State University.

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Formalwear

4-H Textile Science

Advanced Project

Special occasions call for special clothing. To make special clothing, you need special fabrics and new skills!

In this project, you'll make a garment or ensemble using one or more specialty fabrics for a formal or semiformal occasion. Some of these fabrics are lace; sheer or silky fabrics; sequinned fabrics; napped fabrics such as velveteen or velvet; and fur, suede, or leather and their imitations.

You'll learn how to:

- Choose fabric for your project
- Sew French seams and other specialty seams and finishes
- Work with one-way designs and napped fabrics
- Prevent puckered seams and skipped stitches by adjusting sewing machine tension, pressure, and needle size

Before shopping for a fabric and pattern, think about what you already have in your wardrobe and what type of occasion you'll be attending. Will you want to wear this garment more than once?

Read fashion magazines and try on garments similar to what you think you want to make. Notice the type of fabric, the style of garment, and those details that hold their shape and that seem the most flattering on you.

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Choosing Pattern and Fabric

When you look for fabric, check the fiber content and care instructions carefully for all fabrics, notions, and trims. If there are or will be beads, sequins, or other surface decoration or finishes, ask your dry cleaner about the costs of caring for your garment.

Notice how many wonderful fabrics there are to choose from! Learn to recognize them, and read up on their characteristics and related sewing techniques.

Here are just a few you'll find in fabric stores or through mail-order: velvet, velveteen, velour, satin, sateen, lace, brocade, taffeta, metallics and sequin fabrics, suede and ultrasuede, fur and furlike fabrics, chiffon, georgette, organdy, organza, and lamé.

Be aware that each type of fabric can be made from any number of fibers. These affect how it feels, how it drapes and wears, how much it costs, and how it should be cared for. For example, velvet can be made from cotton, wool, and silk as well as any number of manufactured fibers.

Notice that some special-occasion fabrics have unusual woven designs. Satin and sateen are actually types of weaves. You may see woven jacquard designs, too. Discover weaves by looking at them through a magnifying glass. How do these weaves look different from those found in a broadcloth apron, denim jeans, or a herringbone wool suit? Do the edges tend to ravel more?

If you are working with slippery, delicate, or very decorative fabrics, choose a pattern that has just a few seams and details. Some special occasion fabrics have applied designs. For example, moiré is a water-marked fabric. Care must be taken in cleaning and wearing this type of garment to prevent water from changing the pattern or removing it all together. Beads, sequins, embroidery, and other applied designs require special handling, too.

Some specialty fabrics are transparent, so you may need to attach a lining or convert faced edges to bound or self-edged areas. Select seam finishes carefully, so they don't show through or ravel excessively. You may need a special presser foot or tear-away tissue to help you handle slippery fabrics.

Because special fabrics are often expensive, you'll want to make a test garment out of muslin, gingham, or a fabric similar to the one you want to make (especially if it's a knit). Many specialty fabrics cannot be altered midway through construction without damage to the fabric or the garment design.

Practice sewing details on scraps of the fabric before trying it on your final garment. Study the effects of pinning, removing stitches, and pressing on sample scraps of your fabric.

Some fabrics will need to be pinned or basted only in the seam allowance. Also, many special garments require just the right interfacing, boning, or supports to maintain their shape. Be very careful with your special fabrics, and keep hands and work area clean at all times.

Attach envelope for samples here

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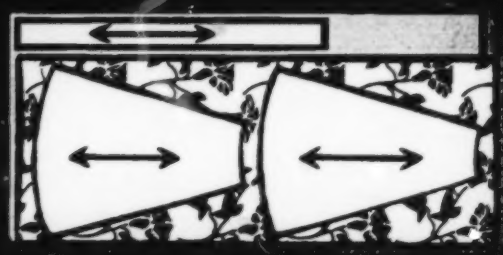
Layout Activity

Beside the layouts below, list what is right and what is wrong with each one. (Answers on back page.)

1



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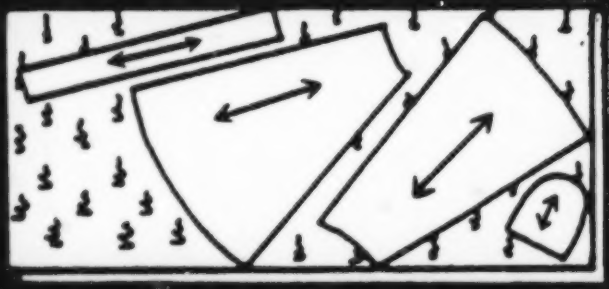

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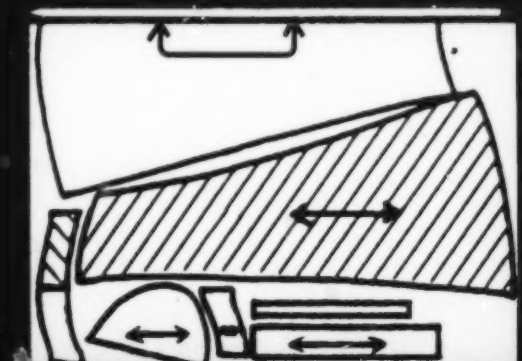


Adapted from layout activity prepared by Nadine Hackler, Extension Clothing Specialist, October 1988.

What I learned in this project (new skills, new words)

What I shared with others (presentations, helping other members, community service)

TOPIC OR SKILL	DATE	NO. OF PEOPLE WHO WATCHED

Did I participate in Fashion Revue? _____

Where? _____ When? _____

Project story

Use this space to write about your project. What did you do? What did you enjoy doing most? Least? Tell where you wore or will wear your outfit.

Tell about the type of pattern you chose and the fiber content of your fabric(s). Attach sample swatches. Talk about the sewing resources you used, the resource people who helped you, and your group activities.

Include a photo or sketch of your final outfit, complete with accessories.

Formalwear Project Record

4-H Textile Science

Advanced Project

Name _____

Address _____

Age as of January 1 _____

Club _____

Number of years in this project _____

Number of years in Textile Science projects _____

Leader's signature _____

What I made for my project

ITEM	FIBER CONTENT	COST	HOURS TO MAKE

Total number of garments made this year _____

People who helped me and resources I used for this project

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

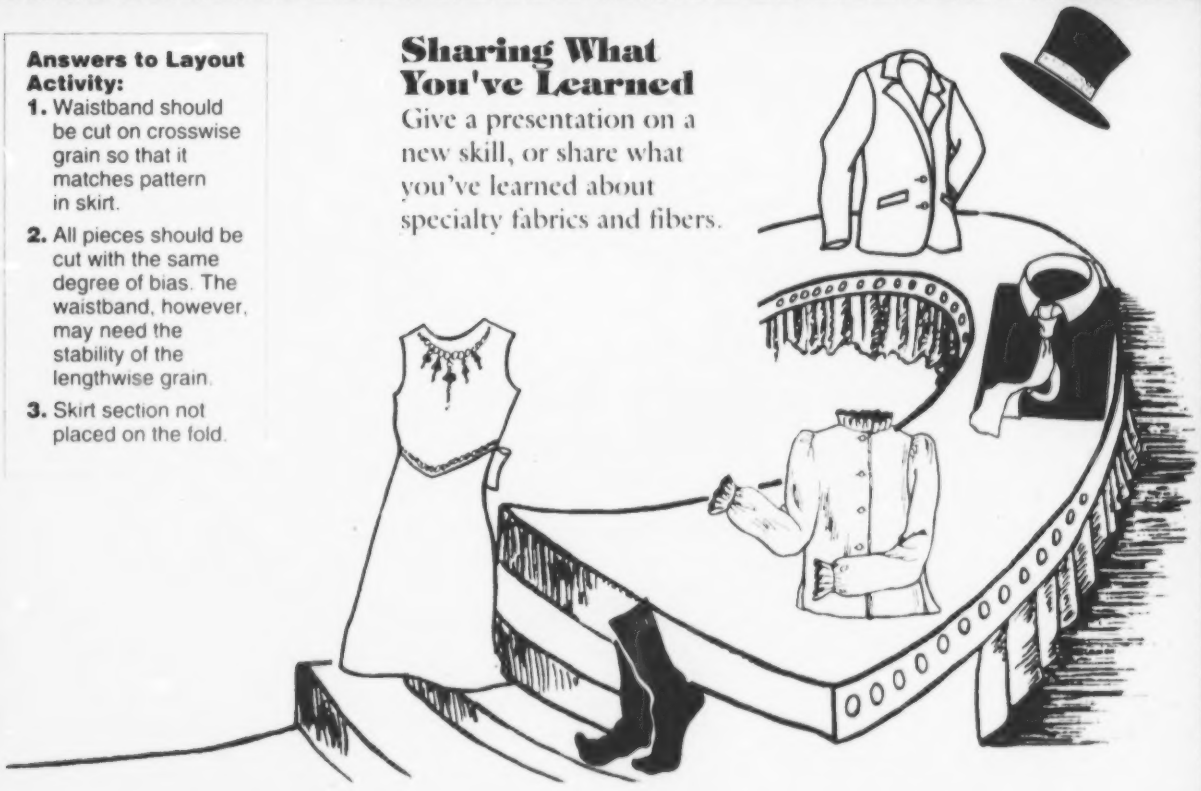
_____ _____

Answers to Layout Activity:

1. Waistband should be cut on crosswise grain so that it matches pattern in skirt.
2. All pieces should be cut with the same degree of bias. The waistband, however, may need the stability of the lengthwise grain.
3. Skirt section not placed on the fold.

Sharing What You've Learned

Give a presentation on a new skill, or share what you've learned about specialty fabrics and fibers.



Want to Know More?

Don't be afraid to ask for help during your project. You may want to find someone with experience in making a similar type of garment. The fabric salesperson may be able to help you, and there are many books and articles to give you ideas and inspiration. Many are listed on PENpages at your county extension office.

Exhibits and Fashion Revue

Plan to model your garment or ensemble in the fashion revue and to exhibit it at your local fair or round-up. Read fashion revue rules and regulations for county, regional, and state exhibits. Your county extension office will have a current list of exhibit ideas. Don't forget to attach a fabric label in a seam allowance or somewhere inside the garment itself. Include your name, age, 4-H club, and county on the label.

Taking the Project Again

You may want to take this project again another year. Try making a new garment or use a new specialty fabric. You may also make a special-occasion garment from a fabric with an unusual content, such as wool, or combine a woven fabric with a knitted accessory or design detail.

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